

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
BETWEEN: -

Claim No: HC11CO1957

HJK

Claimant

- and -

(1) NEWSGROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED  
(2) GLENN MULCAIRE

Defendants

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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Counsel/solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, breach of confidence and harassment, I appear for the Claimant. [My learned friend], Michael Silverleaf QC, appears for the First Defendant.
2. The Claimant has chosen to remain anonymous throughout these proceedings and the Court has ordered that anything which may reveal the identity of the Claimant shall be excluded from statements of case, including this Statement which, notwithstanding the Claimant's anonymity, stands as a public record of the First Defendant's admission of liability and apology for the conduct in question. The First Defendant

was the publisher of *The News of the World* newspaper which, prior to its notorious closure in July 2011, was the UK's biggest selling Sunday newspaper with a very considerable readership in this jurisdiction. It was also published in an on-line version, [www.newsoftheworld.com](http://www.newsoftheworld.com). As is now common knowledge, the Second Defendant was a private investigator engaged by the First Defendant to carry out various investigative activities. His methods included the unlawful interception of mobile telephone voicemail messages and blagging of information from mobile phone companies, telephone companies and others.

3. Some years ago the Claimant was the subject of media scrutiny and serious media intrusion into the Claimant's private life. This media intrusion was exceptionally upsetting, particularly in view of its focus on deeply private matters and personal relationships. The Claimant was also very distressed by the fact that journalists sought the Claimant out, visited the Claimant in person and contacted the Claimant by telephone.
4. After following the phone hacking scandal in the press, the Claimant began to realise that information was being made available to many victims of this practice about when and how they had been targeted. Accordingly the Claimant wrote through solicitors to the Metropolitan Police Service asking which of the Claimant's voicemail messages had been accessed and what information about the Claimant or the Claimant's messages was in the possession of the police. Evidence was shown to the Claimant which, among other things, revealed that the Second Defendant, Glenn Mulcaire, had accessed the Claimant's voicemails.
5. In June 2011 the Claimant issued proceedings against the First and Second Defendants for misuse of private information, breach of

confidence and harassment. The First Defendant indicated its intention to defend the claim and duly served a Defence in October 2011.

6. However, on 13 December 2011 the First Defendant admitted a list of matters including that it had entered into an agreement with the Second Defendant, Mr Mulcaire, and paid him hundreds of thousands of pounds to obtain information about specific individuals for use by *The News of the World* journalists and publication in the newspaper. It admitted that certain of its employees were aware of, sanctioned and requested the methods used by the Second Defendant which included the unlawful interception of mobile phone voicemail messages and obtaining call and text data, (which methods are now known as "phone hacking"); obtaining information by "blagging"; and, in one case, unlawfully accessing emails. It also admitted that the Second Defendant had provided journalists at *The News of the World* with information to enable the said journalists themselves to intercept voicemail messages. The First Defendant accepted that some information unlawfully obtained by the Second Defendant was used to enable private investigators employed by *The News of the World*, including Derek Webb, to monitor, locate and track individuals and place them under surveillance.
7. I am here today to publicly announce that the First Defendant has accepted liability for invasion of privacy and breach of confidence and agreed to pay damages to the Claimant in the sum of £60,000 plus the Claimant's legal costs. The Defendant has also agreed to continue to carry out searches of documents in its possession and to disclose the results to the Claimant so that the Claimant can ascertain the extent of the wrongdoing.
8. Both Defendants have also undertaken not to further access the

Claimant's voicemail messages or to publish unlawfully obtained private information about the Claimant.

Counsel for the First Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the First Defendant I confirm everything [my learned Friend], Mr Tomlinson QC/Ms Allen, has said.


10. The First Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to the Claimant by the accessing of the Claimant's voicemail messages and obtaining the Claimant's confidential information. The First Defendant acknowledges that the information should never have been obtained in the manner that it was and that the First Defendant is liable for misuse of private information and breach of confidence.

Counsel/Solicitor for the Claimant

11. My Lord I ask for leave to withdraw the record.



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Hugh Tomlinson QC/ Tamsin Allen for the Claimant



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Michael Silverleaf QC for the First Defendant